

LIBRARY

Leyburn Rural District Council.

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

---

---

1949

---

---



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29730879>

## **LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

---

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.**

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in submitting the following report on the public health services of the Rural District Council for the year 1949.

---

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

##### **Public Health Officers.**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

W. SHARPE, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

W. SUTTON, M.S.I.A.

*County Nursing Staff operating in district :*

MISS K. E. MUNFORD, Leyburn.

MISS M. J. FAIRBURN, Redmire.

MRS. J. G. McFARLANE, East Witton.

MRS. D. SMITH, Crakehall.

##### **Ambulance Service.**

The facilities provided by the County Council consist of an ambulance station at Richmond and Hospital Car Service vehicles which are located at Leyburn and Middleham.

##### **Laboratory Service.**

Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Northallerton.

---

#### **GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.**

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	63,613	Acres.
Population (Estimated Mid-year 1949)						...	6,390	
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,698	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£27,052	
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£108	

##### **Population.**

The population as estimated by the Registrar General at mid-year 1949, was 6390; the comparative figure for the previous year being 6413, showing a very slight decrease in the population of the District.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1000 Civilian Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
<b>LIVE BIRTHS :</b>					
Legitimate .. ..	57	53	110 ]	17.68	16.7
Illegitimate .. ..	1	2	3 ]		
<b>STILL BIRTHS :</b>					
Legitimate .. ..	1	3	4 ]		
Illegitimate .. ..	0	0	0 ]	0.63	0.39
<b>DEATHS :</b>					
All causes .. ..	37	35	72	11.27	11.7
Puerperal Infections ..	—	0	0	0.00*	0.11*
Infants under 1 year of age					
Legitimate .. ..	2	1	3 ]		
Illegitimate .. ..	1	0	1 ]	35.40†	32.0†

\* Rates per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

† Rates per 1000 Live Births.

## CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1000 Civilian Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
ALL CAUSES .. ..	37	35	72	11.27	11.7
Cancer .. ..	6	4	10	1.57	—
Cardio Vascular Diseases	19	18	37	5.79	—
Tuberculosis .. ..	1	1	2	0.31	0.45
Pneumonia .. ..	2	2	4	0.63	0.51
Other Respiratory Diseases .. ..	1	2	3	0.47	—
Digestive Diseases ..	1	3	4	0.63	—
Nephritis .. ..	2	1	3	0.47	—
Congenital Malformations, Birth injury, inf. disease	2	1	3	26.55†	—
Maternal Causes ..	—	0	0	0.00*	0.25*
Road Traffic Accidents ..	1	1	2	0.31	—
Other Violent Causes ..	1	0	1	0.16	—
All other causes ..	1	2	3	0.47	—
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years ..	0	0	0	0.00†	3.0†

\* Rates per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

† Rates per 1000 Live Births.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Notified	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1000 Civilian Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever .. ..	4	10	14	2.19	1.63
Whooping Cough .. ..	6	7	13	2.03	2.39
Measles .. ..	16	16	32	5.01	8.95
Pneumonia .. ..	3	6	9	1.41	0.80
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	1	0	1	0.16	0.13
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever .. ..	—	2	2	17.09*	6.31*
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	0	1	8.85†	—

\* Rates per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

† Rates per 1000 Live Births.

There has been no major outbreak of infectious diseases during the year, and it should be noted that no case of diphtheria has been reported which is indicative of the benefit of active immunisation. The case of poliomyelitis occurred in a visitor to the district.

Infectious disease hospital accommodation is provided by the Northallerton Isolation Hospital.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

### **Water Supplies.**

The supply to the parishes of Patrick Brompton, Hauxwell, Newton-le-Willows, Thornton Steward, Constable Burton and Hutton Hang is from the Bedale Rural District Council's trunk main. This supply has not been satisfactory, especially in the Thornton Steward and Constable Burton area and there have been prolonged periods when no water was obtainable in these villages. Steps should be taken to ensure that a 24 hour service is available.

**Leyburn.** During the prolonged summer drought the yield from the Cranehow source was insufficient but this was augmented by pumping from Whipperdale which obviated the necessity of restricting the supply to the township.

**Middleham.** The piped supply here was inadequate during the summer months necessitating the turning off of the water each night for a considerable period.

**Bellerby.** This supply is inadequate. The Bedale pump had to be used during the summer to maintain a supply to this village.

The following villages all have private water supplies not maintained by the Council :—Finghall, Carlton, West Scrafton, Arrathorne, Castle Bolton, Melmerby, Garriston, Redmire and Wensley.

**Finghall.** The water is wholesome, but the borehole and pumping machinery are expensive to maintain.

**Carlton.** There is intermittent pollution of this supply, which, therefore, cannot be considered satisfactory.

**West Scrafton.** The supply is inadequate due chiefly to the mains being too small.

**Arrathorne.** This water comes from a very good and adequate spring. The mains are rather small.

**Wensley.** The pressure and quantity are always good. The quality, however, is considerably poor.

**Melmerby.** This is a good and wholesome supply.

**Garriston.** The pressure and quality of this supply are not satisfactory.

**Redmire.** This village has a good system of mains but there is not sufficient storage.

It is very gratifying to report that an official starting date (1st April, 1950), has been received for the Sowden Beck Water Scheme. This scheme when completed will provide a piped supply to the parishes of East Witton, Spennithorne, Harmby, Wensley, Preston, West Witton and Swinithwaite and augment the existing supplies to Leyburn and Middleham.

For details of water samples taken during the year see appendix.

### Sewage.

Sewage disposal works are in operation in the following areas : Leyburn, Middleham, Castle Bolton, East Witton and Swinithwaite, but there is an urgent need for sewers in many more villages. Schemes have been prepared and approved for West Witton, Newton-le-Willows, Patrick Brompton and Hunton, the starting date awarded being 1st May, 1950.

Because of increasing pollution to the stream in Carlton the sewage disposal scheme for this township should be treated as an urgency.

### Refuse Disposal.

The refuse collection scheme introduced in 1947 is working satisfactorily. There is a weekly collection in the townships of Leyburn and Middleham and fortnightly collection in other

parishes. In addition night soil is removed at Hunton, Arrathorne and Hornby. Due to the growth of this service the question of disposal of refuse is becoming more acute, and additional suitable tips will have to be found.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

Pollution of streams in the proximity of certain villages still persists, notably at Carlton (mentioned above), Harmby, Bellerby, Hunton and West Witton. These nuisances are likely to continue until sewage disposal works are provided. As previously mentioned, schemes for Hunton and West Witton have been approved and with their completion the nuisances in these areas should be effectively abated.

Pollution is also taking place in a tributary of the River Cover near Coverhain, due to an unsatisfactory milk effluent being discharged into the river by the adjacent creamery. Steps are being taken to have this remedied.

### **Camp Sites.**

There is a displaced persons camp in the neighbourhood of East Witton which is being run in a satisfactory manner.

### **Milk.**

Under the Milk and Dairy Regulations, 1949, the responsibility for registration of dairy premises and farms has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council are now only required to keep a register of milk distributors.

### **Ice Cream.**

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district, but there are three registered dealers, two at Leyburn and one at Middleham, who sell a pre-packed product.

### **Meat and Food Inspection.**

The slaughter of animals is centralised at Leyburn. The conditions at the present abattoir are far from satisfactory, and are incapable of much improvement on the present site. The Ministry of Food have been approached and they are fully cognisant of the present conditions, but so far no action has been taken.

For details of meat and food inspections carried out see appendix.

### **Housing.**

The Council's post war housing schemes continue, but the supply is still a long way from meeting the demand. There are still too many unfit houses occupied in the district and too many cases of gross overcrowding awaiting more suitable living accommodation. Sixty-eight houses have been completed by the Council since the end of the war, distributed as follows :—

Patrick Brompton	...	2
Newton-le-Willows ...	...	2
East Witton	...	4

Leyburn	...	...	...	36
Middleham	...	...	...	4
Redmire	...	...	...	2
Spennithorne	...	...	...	6
Harmby	...	...	...	6
West Witton	...	...	...	6

Twenty-four houses have been completed by private enterprise.

The tables appended show the progress during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.M. SHARPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Thornborough Hall,  
LEYBURN,  
September, 1950.

#### APPENDIX.

#### INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A total of 1273 Inspections were made during the year, and an analysis of these is given below :—

	In-spections	Informal Notices	Not complied with	Statutory Notices	Not complied with
Council's Works .. ..	621	—	—	—	—
Housing .. ..	386	7	1	10	—
Slaughterhouse .. ..	167	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds .. ..	6	—	—	—	—
Public Health Acts .. ..	93	4	3	1	—
Total .. ..	1273	11	4	11	—

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	Powered, Non-powered	Number on Register	In- spections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prose- cuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority ..	5	5	5	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies .. ..	62	62	84	—	—
Total .. ..	67	67	89	—	—

Particulars	Powered	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Found	Remedied	Notified by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes*	—	—	—	—	—

\* (In only four cases are there both sexes employed and sanitary conveniences are separate and adequate).

### Trades.

Builders	...	...	...	10
Plumbers	...	...	...	8
Joiners	...	...	...	11
Electricians	...	...	...	3
Bakers	...	...	...	3
Motor Repair Shops	...	...	...	8
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	10
Milk Receiving Depots	...	...	...	2
Cheese Factory	...	...	...	1
Sawmills	...	...	...	1
Sand and Gravel	...	...	...	1
Saddler	...	...	...	1
Quarries	...	...	...	7
Gas Co.	...	...	...	1
				67
				—

### HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS.

The tables below give details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the respective parishes :—

**By Private Enterprise.**

Parish	Completed	Under Construction at end of year
Leyburn	9	2
West Witton	1	-
Preston-under-Scar	1	-
Coverham	6	-
Thornton Steward	1	-
Finghall	1	-
Hunton	1	-
Patrick Brompton	1	-
Hornby	3	-
Middleham	-	1
Total	24	3

**By Leyburn Rural District Council.**

Parish	Completed	Under Construction at end of year
Patrick Brompton	2	-
Newton-le-Willows	2	-
West Witton	6	-
Leyburn	36	10
Redmire	2	4
Middleham	4	10
East Witton	4	-
Harmby	6	-
Spennithorne	6	4
Finghall	-	8
Constable Burton	-	6
Total	68	42

Works of adaptation have been carried out resulting in the provision of 13 flats and 4 new dwellings by private enterprise.

### Building Licences.

The following table gives details of work licensed during the year 1949 :—

	No.	Values
New dwellings ...	6	£6,800
Repairs and adaptations ...	26	£15,395
Total ...	32	£22,195

### Plans.

41 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table :—

Parish	Layout	New Buildings	Alterations to dwellings	Garages and sheds	Cowsheds and Dairies	Other Buildings	Total
Leyburn ..	2	—	2	4	—	6	14
Agglethorpe-with-Coverham ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Hornby ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Middleham ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
Patrick Brompton	—	1	1	—	1	2	5
Constable Burton	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Finghall ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Harmby ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
East Scrafton ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
East Witton ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
West Witton ..	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Redmire ..	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Hunton ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	3
Spennithorne ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total ..	3	4	6	10	5	13	41

### BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

No.	Date of Sampling	Address	Summary of Analyst's Report
1	23.2.49	West Scrafton	Small degree of contamination with coliform organisms.
2	20.4.49	West Scrafton	Slight contamination with coliform organisms.
3	18.5.49	Whipperdale	No contamination with coliform organisms.
4	24.5.49	West Scrafton	No contamination with coliform organisms.
5	11.10.49	Redmire Water Supply	Moderate degree of contamination with coliform organisms.
6	11.10.49	Leyburn Water Supply	No contamination with coliform organisms.
7	24.10.49	Redmire Water Supply	Moderate degree of contamination with coliform organisms.
8	7.11.49	Hornby	Slight contamination with coliform organisms.

### Chemical Analysis of Water.

1. 24.6.49 West Scrafton. Recommended that lead pipes are not to be used.

### MEAT INSPECTIONS.

	Graded Animals	Casualty Animals
Beasts ...	669	—
Cows ...	—	147
Calves ...	—	103
Sheep ...	1817	43
Pigs ...	—	61

Total weight of meat and offal condemned, 13 tons, 18 cwt.  
2 qr. 5 lbs.

Total weight of above affected with tuberculosis, 8 tons, 2 cwt.  
3 qr. 11 lbs.

### Details of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. .. .. ..	669	147	103	1860	61
Number inspected .. .. .. ..	669	147	103	1860	61
All diseases except tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. ..	—	18	12	36	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .. ..	267	92	8	42	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. .. ..	40%	75%	20%	4%	20%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. ..	2	39	4	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .. ..	67	18	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. .. .. ..	10%	38%	4%	—	—

### **Food Inspections.**

During the year the following food stuffs were inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Article	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cammembert Cheese	5 dozen	45
Roll Bacon	...	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ham	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon	...	7
Fish	...	56
Sago	...	380
Tea	...	12
Canned Corn Beef	29 tins	222
Imported Beef	...	48





